

# Development of a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan for the State of Delaware



*Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Workshop*

*March 12, 2009*



# Decades of Sea Level Rise Expertise

- Many programs address issues of Coastal Vulnerability & Sea Level Rise
  - ✓ DNREC Shoreline and Waterway Management
  - ✓ Delaware Emergency Management Agency
  - ✓ Delaware Geologic Survey
  - ✓ Delaware office of US Geologic Survey
  - ✓ University of Delaware
  - ✓ Delaware Geographic Data Committee (LiDAR)
  - ✓ DNREC Delaware Coastal Programs



# Why develop an Adaptation Plan now?

- Increasing concern
  - ✓ Increasing Coastal population
  - ✓ Increasing Rate of SLR
- Federal initiatives and data
- Statewide LiDAR data
- Funding availability



# Purpose of an Adaptation Plan

- Provide framework to:
  - ✓ ID vulnerabilities
  - ✓ Evaluate potential responses
  - ✓ Develop localized strategies
  - ✓ Make wise long-term decisions (\$)
- Coordinate activities and capabilities between agencies



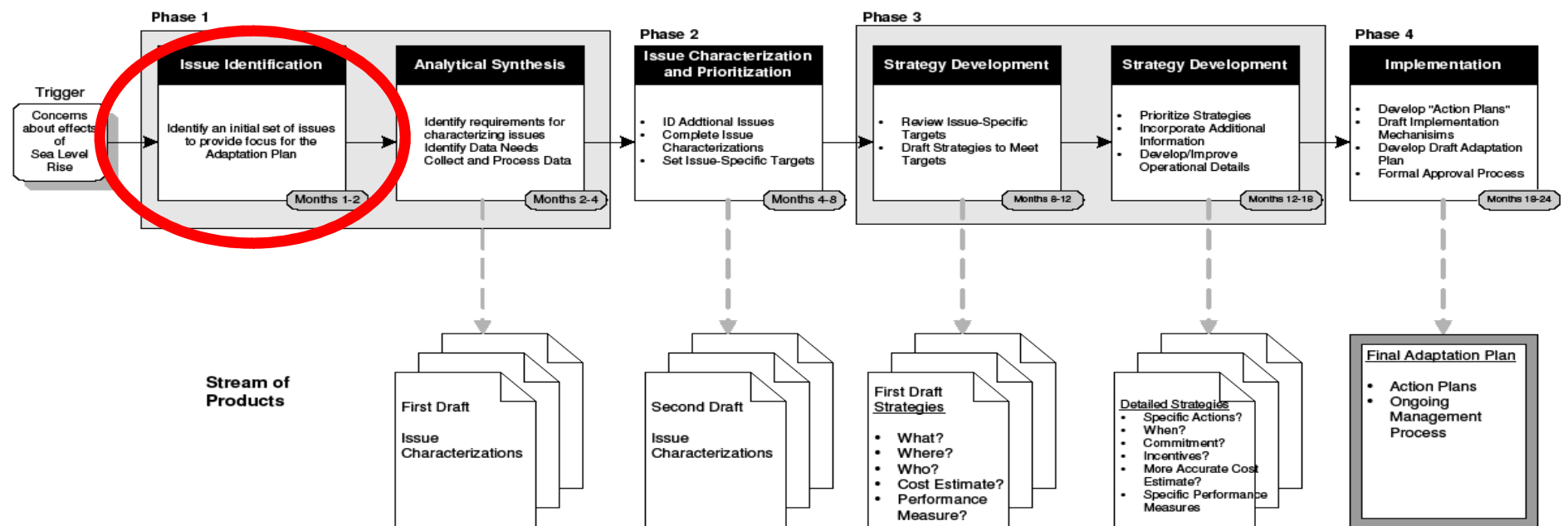


# Contents of an Adaptation Plan

- Resources at risk
- Economic and social impact
- Modeling scenarios
- Unknowns
- Potential ways to plan for and minimize risk
- Implementation Strategy



# A Collaborative Planning Process



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# Delaware Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research



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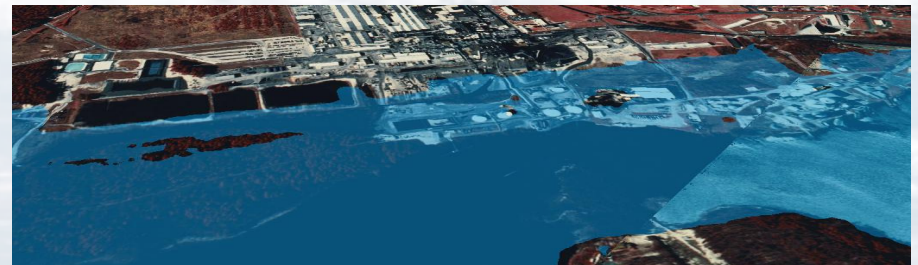
# Today's Workshop

- Purpose

- ✓ To initiate dialogue between diverse stakeholders and to begin characterization of potential issues

- Outcome

- ✓ A list of potential issues and preliminary characterizations to be used as basis for adaptation plan development





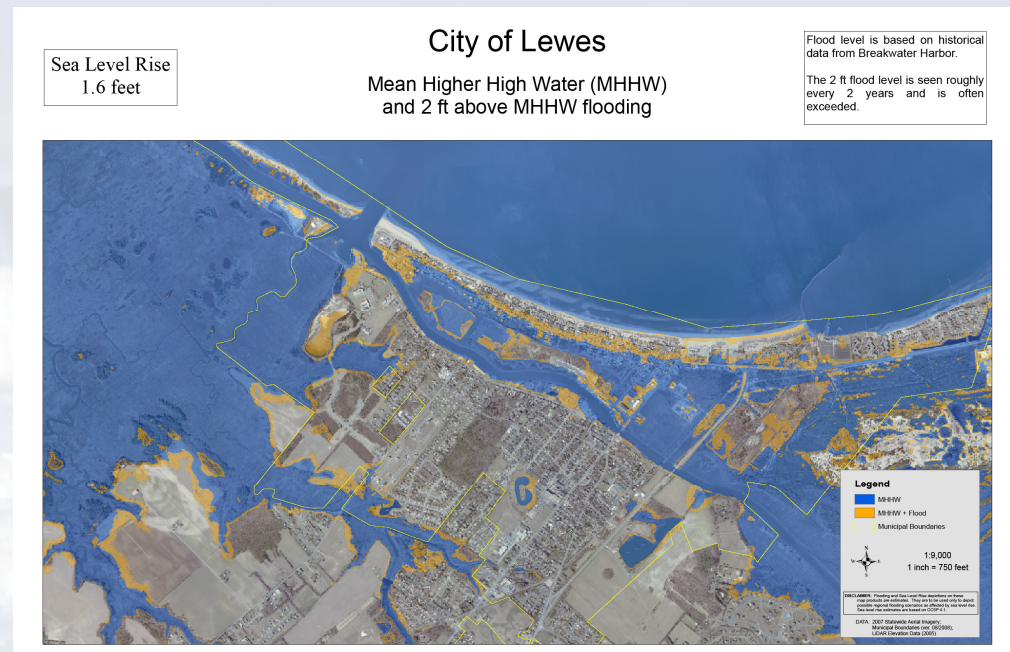
# Working Groups

- Develop List of Issues and Concerns for each category:
  - ✓ Economy and Community
  - ✓ Habitat and Natural Resources
  - ✓ Human Health and Public Welfare
  - ✓ Infrastructure
- Describe each issue in small groups (2-3)
- Prioritize issues and concerns



# Discussion Maps

- “Bathtub” Model using LiDAR data
- Current, 0.5 meter, 1.0 meter, with a “routine” flood level of 2 feet
- For discussion purposes only!



# Questions?

- Economy and Community (Blue)
  - ✓ Corporate Room West
- Habitat and Natural Resources (Green)
  - ✓ Sienna Room
- Human Health and Public Welfare (Red)
  - ✓ Corporate Room East
- Infrastructure (Orange)
  - ✓ Venetian Room



# Plenary Session II



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# Overview

- # of issues discussed
- # of issues characterized
- Themes Heard during the day



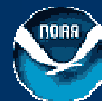
# Economy and Community

## Issues Characterized



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# Habitat and Natural Resources

- Issues Characterized



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# Human Health and Public Welfare

- Issues Characterized



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# Infrastructure

- Issues Characterized



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# What next?

- Information rec'd today will be compiled into a Workshop Proceedings
- Draft Workshop Proceedings will be sent to participants in early April
- Presentations and add'l information will go on website:  
<http://www.swc.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/Pages/SeaLevelRiseAdaptation.aspx>



# More Next Steps

- Coordination Committee will be formed
  - ✓ Members will represent wide range of interests
- Technical Working Groups will be formed
  - ✓ Technical experts will research issues in depth

**We'll be encouraging you to stay involved!**  
**The Adaptation Plan needs diverse**  
**opinions and points of view to be**  
**successful!**



# Questions?



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